

The Sheep and Goats

Jesus told this parable to explain to people how important it is to love others and care for those in need, whoever they are.

One day, Jesus was speaking to a group of his followers. He was telling them about the time when all people of the world will be gathered together in front of him.

Jesus explained that he is the good shepherd and that people are his flock. He told them that all people will be separated like a shepherd separates his sheep and goats. The two groups will be decided by how people have lived their lives and if they have helped others.

“I will put the sheep on my right and the goats on my left.”

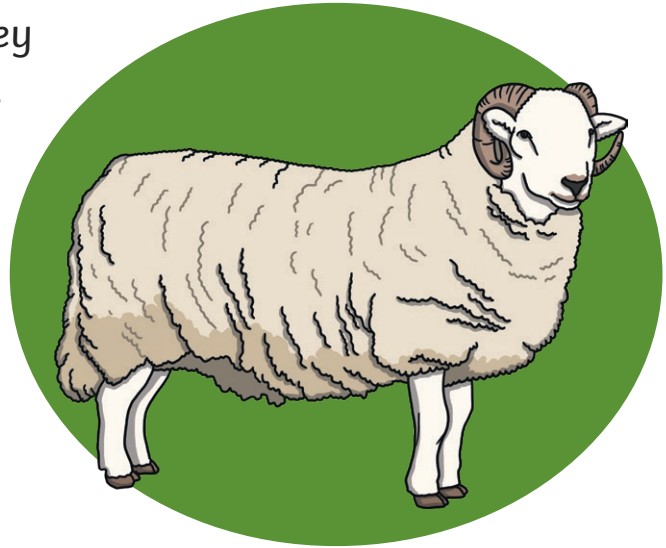
He then explained what he will say to the two groups of people:



I will say to the people on my right, "I was hungry and you fed me. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you invited me into your house. I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you cared for me. I was in prison and you visited me."

"When did we do that?" the people on the right will ask.

I will tell them that whenever they did these things for someone else, they did it for me.



I will then say to the people on left, "I was hungry and you did not feed me. I was thirsty and you did not give me a drink. I was a stranger and you did not invite me in. I needed clothes and you did not clothe me. I was sick and in prison and you did not care for me."

"When did we refuse to help you?" the people on the left will ask.

I will tell them that whenever they did not help each other, they were refusing to help me.



The people on the left will go to eternal punishment but the people on the right will come with me into eternal life in heaven.